AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing metal-matrix composite materials comprising at least one portion of magnesium or of a magnesium alloy, the process comprising:

~~and at least one production step in which~~ thixomolding a granulate of magnesium or of a magnesium alloy and a granulate of a silicon or of a silicon alloy ~~takes place, wherein~~ to produce a Mg_2Si phase with a volumetric content of at least 2% ~~is~~ dispersed into the metal-matrix composite material, wherein the step of thixomolding includes shearing to form an at least partially liquid melt~~metal matrix~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein [[a]] the granulate of silicon or of the [[a]] silicon alloy and [[a]] the granulate of magnesium or of [[a]] the a magnesium alloy are processed jointly ~~in a thixomolding process~~.

4. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~the amount and/or the~~ a size of Mg_2Si phase crystallites which form the metal-matrix composite material ~~and/or~~ or a silicon content of [[a]] the metal-matrix composite material ~~are~~ is determined via the size ~~and/~~or ~~the~~ amount of the granulate ~~particles~~ of silicon or of the silicon alloy.

5. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the step of thixomolding ~~process~~ includes producing the cast body ~~is produced~~ from the metal-matrix composite materials which is then further processed.

6. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the cast body is formed from the metal-matrix composite materials subsequently in at least one process step.

7. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the cast body is formed from the metal-matrix composite materials subsequently in at least one of a forging process ~~and/~~or an extrusion process.

8. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, further including the step of adding ~~wherein in the production of the composite materials addition of~~ at least approximately ~~roughly~~ 2% by weight Si and at most approximately ~~roughly~~ 15% by weight Si ~~takes place~~.

9. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein a Mg_2Si phase with a volumetric content of at least approximately ~~roughly~~ 5% to ~~roughly~~ at most approximately ~~roughly~~ 40% is dispersed into a metal matrix.

10. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the granulate of magnesium or of the magnesium alloy is ~~in the production of metal-matrix composite materials~~ one of ~~the~~ standard magnesium alloys AZ91, AM50, MR1230D, MR1253M or a magnesium die casting alloy ~~is used~~.

11. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein after adding the granulate of silicon or of the silicon alloy ~~Si the~~ heating rate of the thixomolding step ~~device~~ is reduced when ~~the~~ a melt first forms.

12-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein an amount and a size of Mg_2Si phase crystallites which form the metal-matrix composite material and a silicon content of the metal-matrix composite material are determined via a size and an amount of the granulate of silicon or of the silicon alloy.

16. (New) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein an amount of Mg_2Si phase crystallites which form the metal-matrix composite material and a silicon content of the metal-matrix composite material are determined via the amount of the granulate of silicon or of the silicon alloy.